

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-4354

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic 402 North Howard Street

and/or common Charm City Brokers

2. Location

street & number 402 N. Howard Street ___ not for publication

city, town Baltimore ___ vicinity of congressional district Seventh

state Maryland county Baltimore

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	___ military	___ other: vacant

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Clarisse B. Mechanic c/o Blue Barron

street & number Box 1623 telephone no.: MD 21203

city, town Baltimore state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, Baltimore City Courthouse SEB1123

street & number 100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610 folio 568

city, town Baltimore state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No B-4354

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count: 1

This one-bay, three-story commercial building faces east on N. Howard Street and abuts two partywall neighbors. It dates to the fourth quarter of the 19th century. The enframed window wall design consists of a bowed, three-sided window unit flanked by painted brick piers. The street frontage is 20' and the depth is 120'.

The first story has been substantially altered. It presently consists of an entrance to the south side and a large display window to the north. The entrance has a glass door with one full-length side light to the north and a fixed transom above. The display window is covered by a roll-down theft guard, but it appears to run floor-to-ceiling. The north and south edges of the facade and the band under the window are covered in a fluted aluminum siding of circa 1940 date. Between the first and second stories is a wide metal band that stretches across the width of the facade. A sign is attached to the band and reads "Charm City Brokers."

The second and third stories are unaltered and clearly express the enframed window wall design. Narrow brick piers run up the sides of the building and terminate in capitals that are part of the cornice line. Between the piers is the two-story window unit. The entire three-sided unit is bowed, both windows and spandrels. The window units consists of one 1/1 sash window in the angled sides and two 1/1 sash windows in the central section. The spandrels consist of three rectangles outlined in raised molding. Within each rectangle are applied high relief ornamental insignias -- winged griffins in the bowed panels and a medallion flanked by vine scrolls in the middle panel.

The cornice links the bowed window and the piers by following the forward break of the bow and the recess of the piers. The cornice is composed of a series of fillets and curves, with a dentil course embellishing the pier "capitals."

An ornate parapet wall rises above the cornice. Rather than follow the bowed pattern below, the parapet wall is flat and slightly recessed from the plane of the facade. The parapet is divided into three sections composed of rectangles outlined in strips of molding. Above the rectangles is a bold cornice consisting of an ogee, three fillets, back band, a row of modillions, a row of egg and dart molding, and a dentil course. This ornate cornice has scrolled brackets at either end that are embellished with urn-like finials above and acanthus leaves below.

B-4354
402 North Howard Street
Baltimore MD
Section 7 Description
7.1

The back (west) wall runs almost to the alley (State Street). It is three bays wide and three-stories high. The first story has doors in the first and third bays. The second story has shuttered openings in the first and second bays. The third story has shuttered openings in all three bays. The shutters are of seamed tin panels with strap hinges. The roof line has a stepped up profile where a mechanical shed is built over the third bay. "Your credit is good at Roberts Jewelers/ Credit for Diamonds Watches Radios" is painted on the wall.

B-4354
402 North Howard Street
Baltimore, MD
Section 8 Significance
8.1

The single entrance with rear stair hall indicates that the building was constructed for one tenant with multiple operations.

The post-World War Two alterations to the first story created a "modern" commercial design aesthetic. The use of traditional materials such as plate glass and structural steel framing were combined with new fluted aluminum siding to create the popular recessed entrance with angled, large display windows. The deeply recessed, center-bay entrance permitted additional display areas along the vestibule wall.

8. Significance

Survey No. B-4354

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This commercial building is a hybrid of the enframed window design and a Victorian bowed-front building. Architectural historian Richard Longstreth writes that the enframed window wall design was "most commonly used for retail stores" and that the design "reflects an effort to give greater order to the facade composition of small and moderate-sized commercial buildings."¹ In contrast to a 328 North Howard Street, this building's bowed window does not project beyond the sidewalk line; hence, the facade is indeed more unified. The three-sided bowed windows that fill in the window wall are nonetheless distinctly Victorian in spirit and invoke the nooks and crannies desired in Victorian domestic architecture. The projecting piers and broad cornice help visually "contain" the Victorian exuberance.

The degree of ornamentation and massing in this particular building falls in the middle of enframed window wall buildings on Howard Street. It is more ornate than several enframed window wall buildings in the unit block of North Howard Street, but is smaller in scale and less detailed than the one found at 109 North Howard Street. The enframed window wall is embellished with flat field spandrels with inexpensive applied ornaments. The window surrounds and cornice are also relatively modest, and suggest financial restraint in enriching the facade.

The presence of only one entrance in the facade suggests that the building was intended for one tenant's use only. Most likely, the first story would have been used for sales or display area and the upper stories would have been used as offices or light manufacturing or storage areas.

The three-story height is indicative of the middling land values in this section of Howard Street. Further south, four- and five-story buildings predominate, but from this point north most of Howard Street is built up with three-story buildings.

¹ Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street, pp. 69, 68.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-4354

Richard Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street (Washington: Preservation Press, 1987).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Baltimore East Quad

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane Shaw, Architectural Historianorganization CHAP, Room 1037 date December 17, 1991street & number 417 E. Fayette Street telephone 301-396-4866city or town Baltimore state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
301-514-7600

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

Geographic Organization:
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
Modern Period, 1930-present, alterations

Historic Period Themes:
Architecture
Economics

Resource Type:
Building

Historic Environment:
Urban

Historic Function and Use:
Commercial

Known Design Source:
None

REVISIONS

LOT 3/4 DIV. PER DEED C. SH. 9830
LOT 21/35 PER O.O.; C. SH. 77-044
LOTS 5/6 & 7 COR. PER DEEDS; C. SH. 81-254.

530/548

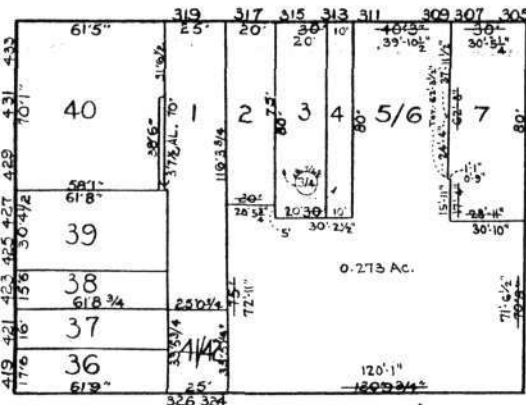
W. FRANKLIN

ST.

ST.

ST.

TS



STATE (401) (403) (405) (407-09) (411) (413-15) (417-19) (421) (423)

STATE

PIERCE

S T.

21/35

21/27

N. EUTAW

N. HOWARD

(563)

W. MULBERRY

ST.

$$\overline{57.7}$$

NOTICE

THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED
FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76(d) OF THE CITY CHARTER
IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER
SOURCES AND IS NOT AN AUTHENTIC SURVEY.

CITY OF BALTIMORE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION

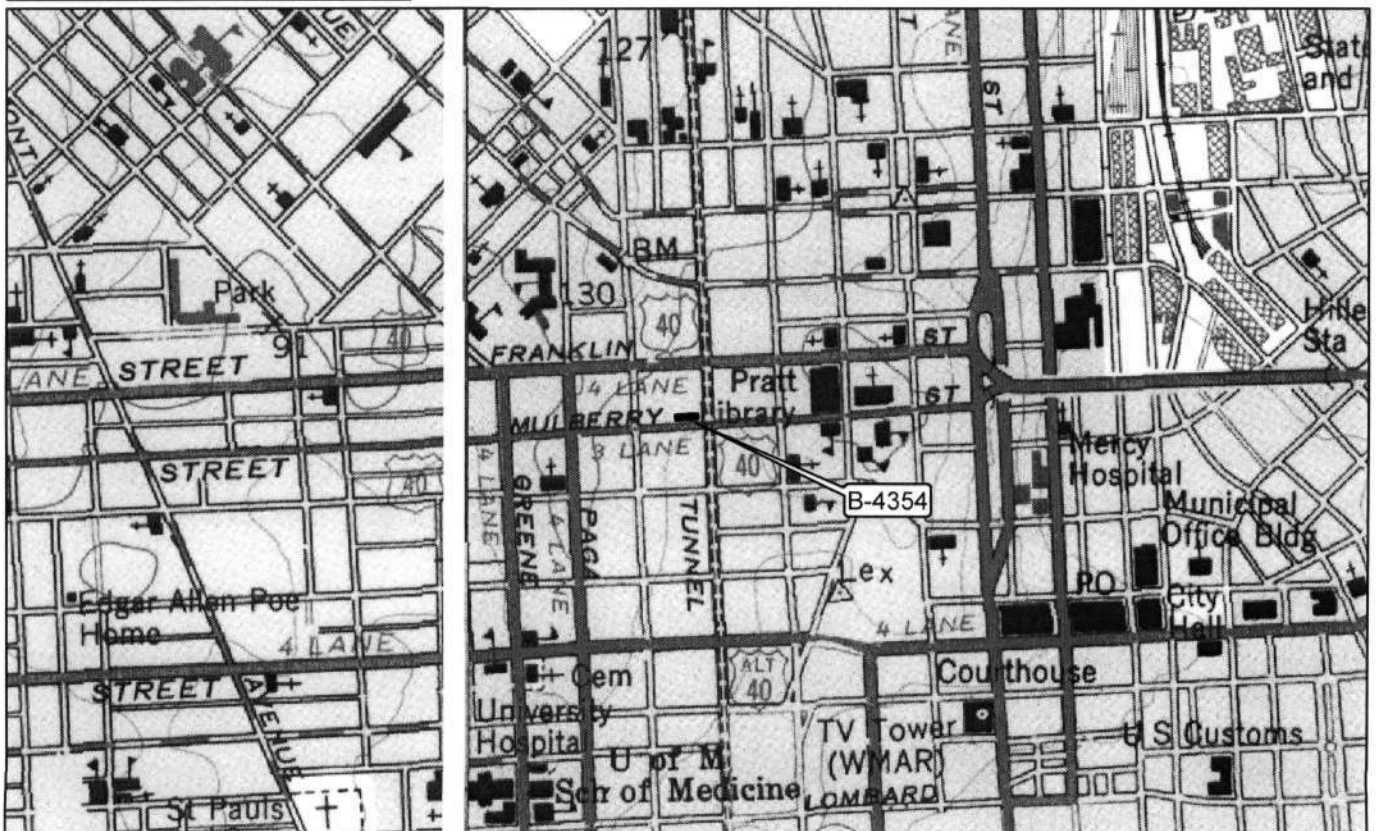
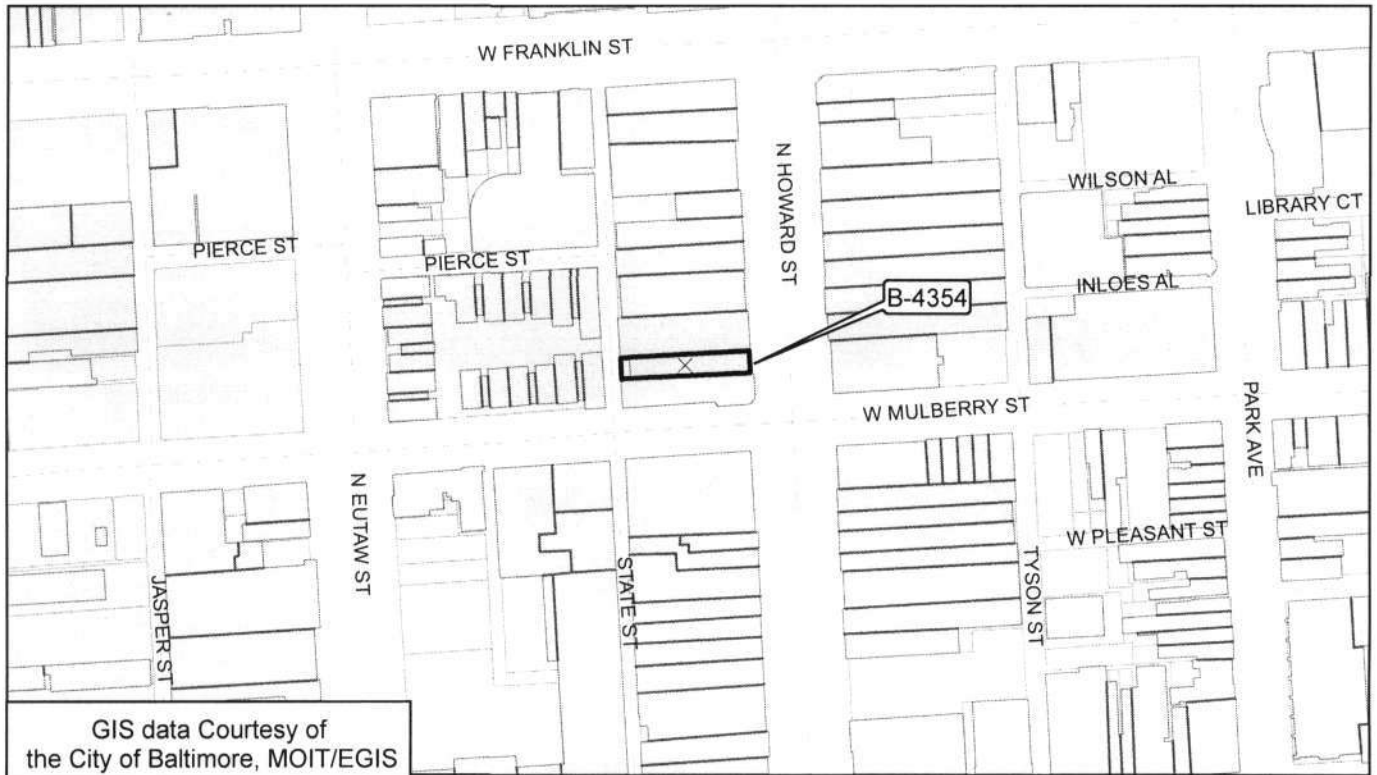
WARD 4 SECTION 2
BLOCK 562

SCALE 1"-50' DATE NOV. 1966

CEDED BY P.W.

TERED BY.....P.W.

B-4354
 Charm City Brokers
 402 N. Howard Street
 Block 0562, Lot 019
 Baltimore City
 Baltimore East Quad.



422
CHARM CITY BROKERS

We Buy and Sell Diamonds Just Off the Street. 727-8616



B-4354

402 N. Howard St.

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Facade, east elevation

1/2



B-4354

402 N. Howard St.

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Rear elevation, west wall (2nd from right)

2/2